Knowing Who's On Board Ensures Crew Security

Asset Integrity
Integrity

Stena Drilling
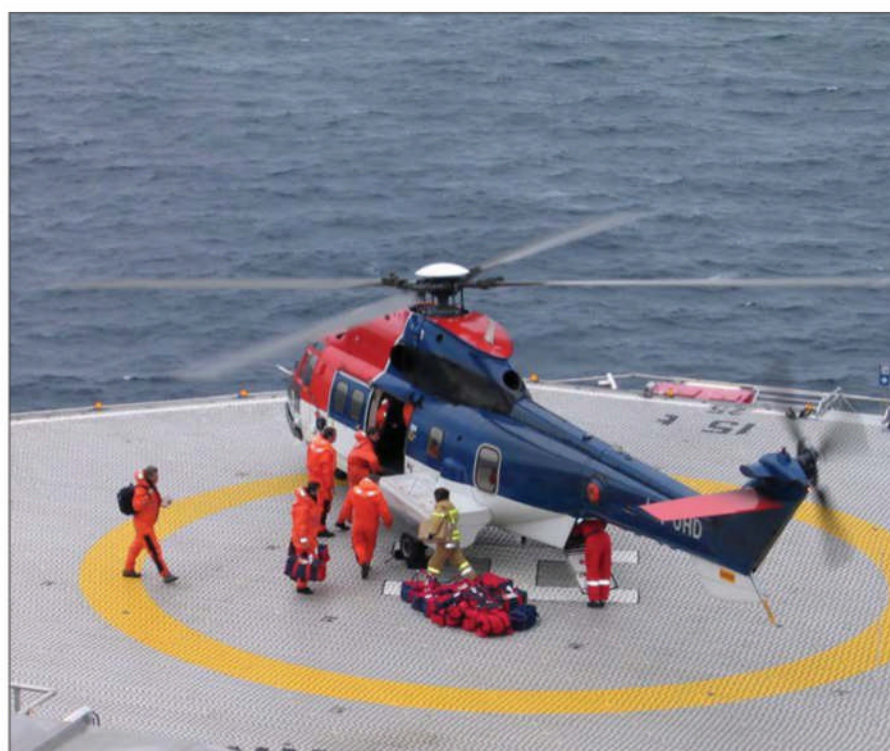CARE, INNOVATION & PERFORMANCE

Asset Integrity Limited

One of the most interesting behind-the-scenes business models that the Web has created is called the SaaS, or Software as a service. SaaS providers are a relatively new way to sell and distribute software and software services. This brief case study illustrates how a reliable and consistent relationship with one client, an offshore drilling contractor, allowed the development of a unique IT solution to address a common but mission-critical problem for any rig owner - how to effectively monitor the rig Personnel Onboard (POB) and personnel in transit, particularly during emergencies.

In the words of the Helicopter Task Group, an investigation group set up in the wake of the helicopter tragedies that occurred in early 2009, "The world has changed, and is changing rapidly". They referred to the way new media organisations now operate, and the way their global reach and technologies have changed the way we handle emergencies within our own organisations. Among the preliminary findings of investigations following the crash of April 1, 2009 was that emergencies can vary hugely, but that knowing in advance who is supposed to do what makes a lot of difference, and for those involved, more especially their families, knowing where people are can be fundamental to getting the response right; getting the news to the families, friends and media in a timely manner, is crucial. One additional and key lesson from the incident was that a knowledge of the Personnel Onboard (POB) and their whereabouts at any time during and following a major incident is critical - and this also applies to having their details correct - "inaccurate or partially accurate information is not good enough".

Who's On? Who's Off?

Vantage as a POB tracking system is used extensively in the North Sea. The system was described as limited by the Helicopter Task Group, and many internal company systems were similarly described anecdotally in the weeks that followed. Many POB systems, in sense of their capability in handling emergency response situations, potentially in the world-side fleet, tended to lack accuracy, and the timely detail required to deal with complex situation in the modern era.

Although not involved in the incidents, one drilling contractor, Stena Drilling Limited, based in Aberdeen, with a world-wide fleet of DP and anchored drilling units, took a proactive look at their emergency response systems, including POB management, in order to determine which areas could be improved. Following an internal evaluation of the system, and a review of proposals from a number of IT services providers, Stena Drilling set up a project with Asset Integrity Limited, to craft a bespoke system that would provide up-to-date POB information, including instantaneous data of who was onboard the helicopter, when it left the rig. The software, designed to work over both, the internet and on the company intranet, was based on data storage systems out with the company,

in case of failures in that system; and was accessible from the rig and various company bases and offices worldwide. For the purposes of data protection, the POB system was isolated from the company's main HR database.

As Asset Integrity was already operating as a service provider for the company, providing STOP, daily reporting and performance reporting information for all the rigs in the fleet, the add-on POB module, developed in a matter of months, sat in a familiar work and security environment for the personnel who needed to use it offshore and in the office in Aberdeen - thus reducing application stress for operators, streamlining reporting, providing a consistent user interface across various applications. The POB database was created as an add-on module, and the desired IT outcomes were achieved for Stena Drilling at a greatly reduced cost, compared to a traditional internal development. The development was a success, and is now in place; it operates

as one of several modules provided by the SaaS provider, and continues to bring additional benefits, including streamlining payroll reporting and tracking crew movements during cyclone down-manning events - again based on accurate online POB reporting. As a case study, this partnership illustrates the valuable and cost effective synergies that can be accrued when a SaaS Provider works closely with a client in solving problems that, if dealt with internally, could take more time and incur higher costs.

Asset Integrity Limited is by definition and nature a SaaS provider. This is a business that provides computer-based services to customers over a network. In its most limited sense, this business provides access to a particular software application (such as a maintenance management system), using a standard web protocol such as http. As a business model, SaaS can be extremely appealing in international oil and gas enterprises where, with more efficient

communications, internet/intranet applications are in demand across continents at multi-centric locations, and individual units can be 'unplugged' when they go off-hire to save costs. The customer gets the benefits of development and unlimited use on an "on demand" or "pay-per-module" service, without incurring the capital costs of the software, storage, software licensing and the head-count required for internal service management.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Asset Integrity Limited (www.assetintegrity.com) is a growing SaaS provider and systems developer based in Ireland, and providing services world-wide. Asset Integrity currently focuses developments on internet-based maintenance (CMMS), safety and operations management systems software for the oil and gas sector. ▮